

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are presented below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for communicating a data message, comprising:

selecting a table key value to be used as an index into an encryption selection table, the key value being a function of a periodic key value and a public variable key value, the encryption selection table specifying at least one of a plurality of encryption methods to be used to encrypt a data message;

encrypting the data message using the ~~indicated~~ encryption method associated with the table key value; and

transmitting the encrypted data message over a data communication network.

2. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 and further comprising:
receiving a periodic key value and a public variable key value at a communication device storing the encryption selection table; and
calculating the table key value from the public variable key value and the periodic key values.

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 and further comprising:
selecting a second encryption method also specified by the table key value from the encryption selection table; and
encrypting the data message a second time using the second encryption method prior to transmitting the encrypted message.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 wherein the periodic key value comprises a predetermined number agreed upon between a transmitter and a recipient of the data message.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 wherein the public variable key value comprises a numeric value which is variable and which is available to both the recipient and the transmitter of the data message.

6. **(Original)** A data communication device operable to transmit and receive data messages to and from a data communication network, the device comprising:

a central processing unit operable to interface with a user of the device through a user interface;

an encryption decryption engine under the control of the central processing unit and operable to execute a plurality of encryption programs, each of the encryption programs being different than the remainder of the plurality and each of the encryption programs operable to receive a message and to output an encrypted message; and

an encryption selection table accessible using a key value, the encryption selection table specifying at least one of the plurality of encryption programs to be used for each key value.

7. **(Original)** The device of Claim 6 wherein the encryption selection table specifies a plurality of encryption methods to be used in sequence for each of the key values and wherein the encryption engine is operable to encrypt a data message using each of the plurality of encryption programs in sequence prior to transmitting the encrypted data message.

8. **(Original)** The device of Claim 6 wherein the key value comprises a table key value and further comprising a user interface operable to prompt a user of the device and to receive a public variable key value and a periodic key value, the table key value calculated as a function of at least one or both of the public variable key value and the periodic key value.

9. **(Original)** The device of Claim 8 wherein the public variable key value comprises a numeric value which is variable and which is available to both the recipient and the transmitter of the data message.

10. **(Original)** The device of Claim 8 wherein the periodic key value comprises a predetermined number agreed upon between a transmitter and a recipient of the data message.